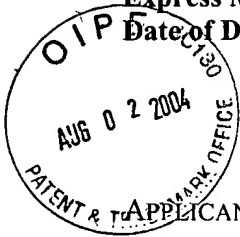


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Shuber et al.
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/545,162 EXAMINER: Juliet Caroline Switzer
FILING DATE: April 7, 2000 ART UNIT: 1634
FOR: METHODS FOR DETECTING NUCLEIC ACIDS INDICATIVE OF CANCER

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Boston, Massachusetts
August 2, 2004

RESPONSE TO APRIL 2, 2004 FINAL OFFICE ACTION

The following amendment and remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on April 2, 2004. With a one-month extension, these documents are due on or before August 2, 2004. Applicants submit herewith a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, along with the appropriate extension fee. Accordingly, Applicants believe no additional fees are due in connection with this filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 26597-526.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.